

Appl. No. 10/697,988  
Amendment dated May 23, 2006  
Reply to Office Action of March 30, 2006

**AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS:**

The attached sheets of drawings include changes to Figures 1-8b. These sheets, which includes Figures 1-8b, and replace the original sheets including Figures 1-8b.

Attachment: eight (8) replacement sheets

### REMARKS

In the March 30, 2006 Office Action, the drawings and claim 14 were objected to and claims 1-13, 15, and 16 were allowed. No other objections or rejections were made in the Office Action.

#### *Status of Claims and Amendments*

In response to the March 30, 2006 Office Action, Applicants have amended the drawings, and written disclosure, and cancelled claim 14 as indicated above. Further, Applicants have amended the Abstract and claims 1-13, 15, and 16 to correct typographical and form errors discovered upon review. Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for this indication of allowable subject matter and the thorough examination of this application. Thus, claims 1-13, 15, and 16 are pending, with claims 1, 4, 5, 9, 13, 15, and 16 being the only independent claims.

#### *Drawings*

In item 1 of the Office Action, the drawings were objected to because Figure 1 lacked an appropriate legend. In response, Applicants have filed a replacement drawing with a legend indicating that Figure 1 shows prior art. Further, Applicants have amended all drawings to amend the characters indicating the figure number to conform to U.S. practice. Applicants believe that the drawings are now correct. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the objections.

#### *Specification*

In item 2 of the Office Action, the preferred layout for the specification was illustrated. In response, Applicants have amended the specification to include a section entitled **Brief Description of the Drawings**, as suggested. Applicants respectfully assert that no new matter has been added.

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Further, Applicants have amended the Abstract to conform to U.S. practice.

Applicants believe that the specification is now correct.

***Claims***

In item 3 of the Office Action, claim 14 was objected to under 37 CFR §1.75 as being a substantial duplicate of claim 13. In response, Applicant has cancelled claim 14.

***Allowable Subject Matter***

In item 4 of the Office Action, claims 1-13, 15, and 16 were indicated as allowed. Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for this indication of allowable subject matter and the thorough examination of this application.

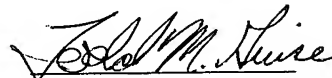
***Prior Art Citation***

In the Office Action, additional prior art references were made of record. Applicants believe that these references do not render the claimed invention obvious.

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Applicants believe that the application is now in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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